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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2006

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Fatality Fire in Pittsburg, Kansas

At approximately 2:53 AM on Saturday, February 11, 2006 a fire was discovered at an occupied residence of 310 S. Locust, Pittsburg, Kansas. The Pittsburg Fire Department responded and received information that one person was able to escape but two others were believed to still be inside. The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office was contacted to investigate the fire.

Two people died in the fire. Stephen J. Hayes, 21 years old of Peculiar, Missouri and Waylon Scott Boots, 23 years old of Colony, Kansas.

Ryan L. Jamison, 21 years old of Lenexa, Kansas was able to escape the fire.

Investigators from the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office have determined the cause of the fire to be incendiary in nature, which means it been ruled an arson fire. Investigators are still actively investigating the incident.

Several agencies are involved in the investigation and they include the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office, the Pittsburg Police Department, the Pittsburg Fire Department, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Bureau of Investigations and the Wichita Fire Department.

The Kansas Committee on Arson Prevention is offering a reward of up to \$ 5,000 for information which leads to the arrest and prosecution of the person or persons responsible. The family of Stephen Hayes is also offering an additional reward of \$5,000. This brings the total reward of up to \$ 10,000. Anyone who has information pertaining to this investigation is urged to call 1-800-KS-CRIME.